THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) As part of the commitment of US$20 million in cash and kind announced by Government in response to the UN emergency appeal for asistance to Iraq, it has been decided that India will participate in the "Adopt a Hospital" programme of the Iraqi Ministry of Health. An existing maternity and pediatric care hospital at Najaf in Iraq has been identified for this project. The project envisages around 75 Indian doctors and support staff being deployed in Najaf.

(c) and (d) The project will be undertaken jointly with Jordan which will also be contributing some personnel. The terms and conditions including sharing of costs are being worked out jointly. The contribution by India is estimated at approximately Rs. 20 crores for running the hospital for six months.

(e) and (f) No.

Permanent U.S. army base in India

482. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a statement made by U.S. Defence Expert Jhon E. Karloaf quoting a Pentagon report titled "Indo-U.S. Military Relationship: Expectations and Perceptions";

(b) whether it is a fact that dialogue is going on between U.S.A. and India to allow U.S.A. of having a permanent Army Base in India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) There have been several speculative and misleading commentaries on the report, which was prepared by a private agency for the U.S. Department of Defence and does not represent the official position of the U.S. Government.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.